



BEVERLY SHORES MEETING NOTES/ SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

Post-it notes

Land Acquisition and Jurisdiction

- The NPS does not have authority over land it does not own. Why have a meeting with the NPS allies which turns friends into enemies?
- How does the NPS determine its objectives? What properties are slated? How their budget is set up? Who decided to scrap Chellberg?
- Park plans once last leasebacks expire
- List of properties slated for Acquisition
- Does park have any plans to “checker board” Beverly Shores?
- How do you plan to insure the existing integrity of our town?
- What about De Authorizing instead of Purchasing more land?
- Any consideration of Land use or acquisition be published in all papers
- Let Irene stay! NPS does itself more harm by evicting her

Parking, Traffic Control, and Road Maintenance

- We seek cooperative efforts regarding road maintenance when the park and its visitors use our roads.
- Mutual responsibility RE Maintenance of roads, especially considering use by park visitors.
- Provide adequate facilities for park guests. I.e. Parking, life guards, snow plowing, police, fire, emergency, etc.
- I'd appreciate park sharing long range goals for parking and facilities in and around Beverly Shores.
- Develop Parking solutions to reduce traffic in congested areas of town.
- Encourage bike use instead of cars- provide off beach parking for bikes.
- Work with towns who want to connect parklands through Greenway Trails and Bike lanes, etc.
- Find opportunities to do helpful things which, by law, you don't have to do, Example: Park shovels snow within boundaries. In the past, the drivers have frequently kept their plows down when moving between parcels. No more. Blades are raised on a town which has limited resources. What is the incremental cost of keeping a plow down-compared to loss of good will. NB: Dillon's Statement “we can't do work outside”.
- Status of East State Park Rd. Beverly Drive intersection road project?
- The economic impact the park has on our town's resources. i.e. roads, police, fire and beaches.



Resource Management

- Why does the NPS have more facilities than they can maintain?
- If you only buy from willing sellers, you could checker board and undermine our community.
- What does NPS think that Beverly Shores can do to help the NPS?
- What does the NPS have to offer an underfunded struggling municipality that already relies on volunteerism?
- Communications- Establish process to tell us exactly what (and why) is happening with the Great Marsh restoration.
- Use National Lake Shore expertise as consultants for town residents who would like to go more “native” in landscaping.
- Replace invasive plants on Beverly Shores town land with native plants.
- Better openings & clarity regarding effects of Great Marsh Restoration on Bev Shores Water problems.
- Sand by Pass at Mich. City
- Lake levels are increasing sand bypass to protect beach
- Coordinate picking up beach between town and National Lake Shore. Should we be picking up small pieces and your machines pick up larger ones?
- Install the water control structure that was originally designed to be part of the spillway of the Great Marsh. Water levels in the Great Marsh are significantly higher than originally planned and have not been controlled during times of extreme precipitation; the park has not followed its own recommendations and has ignored a problem that affects roads and residences in this Gateway Community.
- Cooperative beach effort

Programs

- Add interpretive programs, living farms, hikes, etc that bring value to the communities. This park tends to operate more like an open space buffer than a valuable asset to area residents.
- Identify common issues to communities and park- i.d. points of convergence.

Communication

- Improve signage between private communities and parkland to mitigate impacts of visitors on private residents.
- Communication- Meet quarterly NPS and Beverly Shores to let Beverly Shores know what goals NPS has, Problems Beverly Shores has with visitor, etc and work together towards solutions.
- How about assigning a park person to our town... a “go to” person who will seek out answers to concerns.



- National Park could possibly host, sponsor, and organize a Northern Porter Co. consortium for Park Bds. (Bev Shores, Porter, Dune Acres, Ogden Dunes) to work and collaborate, on common outdoor recreation issues/concerns.
- In all communications, resist the impulse to hide behind the statement “the NPS is required by law to...” Laws may be limiting but there are often ways to reach “win-win” within the law.
- Replace telephone number on sign re: Jet Ski at Broadway and Town Plaza- Enforcement of ordinance?
- Create a clear feedback loop- to create feeling that NPS is listening, make summary of everything you heard “at the meeting and how the park is prepared to respond, including what points the park has no intention of responding to” and get suggestion box put all responses publically on the web site or some other public venue and that is easily accessible.
- Talk with us before you make changes.
- Be flexible and listen.
- Volunteers “stake holders” and should have a say in the work they do- not told to go somewhere else if they have issues with management.
- Beverly Shores is a gateway community what does that mean to the NPS people.
- Traffic Control when lots are full, signs to direct to other lots.
- Provide periodical (monthly) bullet point summary to the public summarizing new decisions affecting BS now and in the future, status updates of current open projects (e.g. What is happening on the culvert repair/repaving project at Beverly Drive & Kemil) New make initiatives/Fed Register publications/plan documents with possible impact on Beverly Shores (Beverly Shores government & residents do not have the time, analytic and staff capacity).
- Honesty in negotiations with town of Beverly Shores.



Flip Charts

Priorities

- Quarterly meeting
 - NPS with Beverly Shores to goals, visitor problems
- Initiative- bulleted action list of actions taken – where to get more information
- Light “parking lot full” on highway 12 (signage)
- Beach use 6-8 weeks
 - 90 degrees on the weekend is the peak use, really limited
- Shuttle purpose to avoid congestion not more visitors
- Great Marsh
 - Community Enhanced
- Communications
 - Transparency
 - Frequency
 - Method
- Close Beverly Drive
 - Close Lakeshore to pedestrians/bikes
 - Old Fire Rd to loop around
- Busy Weekends- provide human resources to close the parking areas (streets?)
- Issue of Lakeview parking lot open until 11
- Go to person for the town to serve as a liaison
- Replace telephone number on sign at beach
- Examine bike trails rack plans interface with NPS-INDU
- Asked to be included in North Trail and Kankakee Trail
- New part of the Porter Co trail
- Acquisition- publish or promote land acquisition plans to individual towns
 - Tell relevant town government (in advance) about acquisition
- Daylight
- 2nd in November at Beverly Shores
- Tell people how?
- Park wants to have meetings?
- Feel productive work happens
- High volume weekends, have INDU add additional staffing (i.e. fireworks)
- Don't close Beverly Drive, Park Ranger at Lakeshore and Beverly Drive, Probably parking at West beach
- 3 islands communities
 - 2 maintains integrity of their communities- Beverly Shores does not
 - Daily internet with park and all visitors
 - Difficult
 - Stressful
 - Help maintain integrity of the community



Future of the community in (i.e. Great Marsh Parking Areas)

- Check Dorothy Buell
 - Accept land by donation
 - House passed but not Senate
 - Clarify and inform Beverly Shores officials
- Native plants reformulation ideas for residents consultants
- Limit invasive species
 - Grant joint invasive species removal process
- Liaison organize volunteers to remove invasive species in Beverly Shores area of INDU property
- No giant parking lot
 - Maybe a parking garage done right could work
 - Busing not allowable - problem
- Expand shuttle parking lot at current V.C. (when torn down)
- Limited parking makes visitation controllable and don't add visitor facilities and shuttles- double edge sword
- Limit number of people who park
 - Who builds the garage
- Publish x number of spaces frequently in a number of sources- direct them to an alternative space
- Signage is terrible, improve considerable
- Emphasize shuttles
- Ample state park parking
 - Can't have it both ways
 - Low density parking for Beverly Shores
 - Shuttles need to be better throughout and promoted
 - Control movement within a community



Potential Cooperative Projects for Further Discussion

1. Communication
 - a. Select an INDU town liaison for communication of town-specific issues and activities
 - b. Create a web page that summarizes important issues and activities
 - c. Use more informative signage at sites to communicate activities
 - d. Use town email trees
 - e. Quarterly meetings with residents
 - f. Define priority topics of interest (conservation efforts; planning documents; laws)
2. Invasive Species Control
 - a. Create a citizens group to work with INDU to monitor and control invasives
 - b. NPS provide education and supervision
 - c. Citizens provide monitoring, labor, and maintain feedback loop
3. Land Acquisition
 - a. NPS policy on land acquisition (not allowed; only contiguous donations)
 - b. Privacy rights regarding negotiation of land donations
 - c. Create method to alleviate fears of compromising the integrity of the community
4. Parking, Traffic Control, and Road Maintenance
 - a. Define mutual interests of INDU and Beverly Shores
 - b. Explore historical perspective of this issue
 - c. Discuss and agree on collaborative solutions that satisfy these interests (i.e. road closures; create one-way roads; bike/ped only routes; bike parking facilities; vehicle parking; wayfinding signage for when lots are full)
 - d. Focus on peak use time periods